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January 30, 1956

Mr. Roger Fisher
701 Union Trust Building
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

You are aware from Mr. Percival F. Brundage's letter to you, January 18, 1956, that your letter to him, January 10, 1956, has been referred to me. In your letter you requested that the Office of Defense Mobilization take a fresh look at the problem involved in selecting a location for the proposed Central Intelligence Agency building.

The interest of this Office in the matter is in the application of the dispersion policy. This policy recognizes that economic, operational, and administrative requirements may provide a legitimate basis for exceptions to it. The head of the agency concerned is responsible for determining whether the nature of the activity will permit the use of a dispersed location.

An exception in this case was granted. When an exception is justified, it is in keeping with the objective of the dispersion policy that as much security as possible be achieved consistent with the needs which justified the exception. In achieving this security, distance, topography, and protective construction are important.

While the Office of Defense Mobilization has made no recommendation as to a suitable location for the proposed building, it is my opinion that the location should be as far removed from the center of the target area as the needs which justified the exception will permit.

I am sure that Mr. Allen Dulles is motivated by these considerations in searching for a suitable location.

Sincerely,

Victor E. Cooley
Acting Director

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION

SUMMARY SHEET

(Director's Outgoing Correspondence)

TO: The Director

The following is a brief summary of the background and the substance of the attached communication prepared for your signature:

Letter to Mr. Roger Fisher re his letter to Mr. Brundage which was referred to Mr. Cooley. Reply states ODM's interest in CIA building location is limited to dispersion; exception to dispersion policy granted; as much security as possible notwithstanding the exception is encouraged.

This reply consistent with letter from Governor Adams to Mr. Fisher, same subject, January 23, 1956.

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/s/ V. E. Cooley

The following officials have concurred in this communication:

Colonel White, Central Intelligence Agency
code 143, extension 717
on January 26, 1956.

FROM	/s/ NSP	DATE
	W. S. Paul, Lt Gen, USA (ret)	Jan 27, 1956
OFFICE	P&R	TELEPHONE
		3235

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

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THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

ROUTE SLIP

(To Remain With Correspondence)

TO Director, Office of Defense

Mobilization

Attn: Mr. Innis Harris

Prompt handling is essential. When draft reply is requested the basic correspondence must be returned. If any delay in submission of draft reply is encountered, please telephone Office of the Staff Secretary.

Date January 25, 1956

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

ACTION: Comment _____
Draft reply _____
For direct reply _____
For your information and files _____
For necessary action _____
For appropriate handling _____
See below _____

Remarks:

By direction of the President:

/s/
A. J. GOODPASTER
Staff Secretary

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January 23, 1956

The Assistant to the President

Dear Mr. Fisher:

The ideas you set forth in your letter of the eleventh concerning the Central Intelligence Agency building proposal have been brought to the attention of the Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization. In his comments, he emphasizes that the Government's interest in dispersion as a means for reducing our vulnerability to attack is of long-standing; yet, it is not the intent of the policy to locate new facilities on the basis of security considerations only nor to make ourselves so secure as to be ineffective in our day-to-day operations. We apply the same policy to all new facilities important to national security -- governmental and industrial alike.

It is recognized that exceptions may be required in both cases. As applied to new facilities for the Executive Branch, the head of the agency concerned is responsible for determining whether the nature of the activity for which a new facility is to be constructed will permit the use of a dispersed location. He must balance the requirements for efficient peacetime operations against the need for post-attack operational capability and other means for assuring it. It is believed that the head of the agency is in the best position to make such determination.

I am informed that these statements, in substance, summarize the guidance given by the Office of Defense Mobilization to agencies having construction authority, and I trust that they will correct any contrary impressions that may exist with respect to intra-governmental positions on the location of the Central Intelligence Agency building.

The interest you have taken in this matter is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mr. Roger Fisher
701 Union Trust Building
Washington 5, D. C.

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MEMORANDUM FOR COL. GOODPASTER

Subject: ODM Draft Reply to Correspondence from Mr. Roger Fisher,
January 11, 1956

I concur in the draft.

In my memorandum to Governor Adams on the CIA building site, dated June 10, 1955, I pointed out that this matter was discussed in Cabinet meeting held December 10, 1954. As I understand the discussion (the Cabinet minutes are not clear on this point), Mr. Allen Dulles indicated that he wished to remain within fifteen or twenty minutes from the White House, and the President concurred. Subsequently, Mr. Fleming, in a memorandum to Mr. Dulles, dated December 31, 1954, approved this exception to ODM dispersal standards.

It is my understanding that once the waiver was granted, ODM stated no position on whether CIA should locate in the District or in the nearby "greenbelt" referred to by Mr. Fisher in his letter to me of January 10, 1956. These decisions are being made by Mr. Dulles.

/s/ Brundage, BOB
Deputy Director

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January 18, 1956

Mr. Roger Fisher
701 Union Trust Building
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

I received your letter of January 10 which I forwarded to Vic Cooley, Arthur Flemming's deputy. He in turn referred it to General Paul who, I believe, has it under consideration.

Cordially yours,

Percival F. Brundage

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